

A Family of Routes to Substituted Phenols, Including Meta-Substituted Phenols

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: A new family of routes to substituted phenols has been developed. 2-Bromo-3-methoxycyclohex-2-en-1-ones are readily deprotonated at C-6, and the resulting anions react smoothly with a variety of electrophiles; treatment with DBU in PhMe at room temperature then results in efficient aromatization to benzene derivatives of a regiochemically defined substitution pattern. This sequence affords phenolic azides

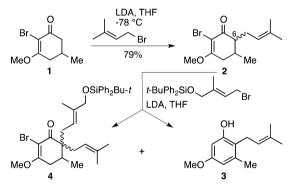


 (ArN_3) , sulfides (ArSR, ArSAr'), selenides (ArSePh), alcohols [ArCH(OH)R], amino derivatives $[ArCH(NHSO_2Ar')R)$, and 1,2-benzenediols. A complementary set of substitution patterns is obtained by DIBAL-H reduction or reaction with a Grignard reagent before aromatization; the latter process gives compounds in which the newly introduced substituent is meta to the phenolic hydroxyl.

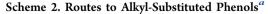
INTRODUCTION

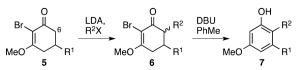
A recent report¹ from this laboratory described how attempts to alkylate the bromoketone 2 (Scheme 1) led to the

Scheme 1. Discovery of the Aromatization Process



unexpected formation of phenol **3** rather than the desired dialkylated product **4**. The formation of **3** was then developed into a general procedure (Scheme 2, $\mathbb{R}^1 = Me$, Et) that affords alkyl-substituted resorcinol monomethyl ethers ($\mathbf{5} \rightarrow \mathbf{6} \rightarrow 7$) under very straightforward conditions: simple C-6 alkylation of a bromoketone of type **5** ($\mathbb{R}^1 = Me$, Et), followed by treatment with DBU in PhMe at room temperature. The yields in the alkylation step ($\mathbf{5} \rightarrow \mathbf{6}$) were in the range 70–91% (average





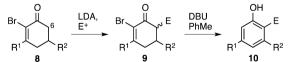
 ${}^{a}R^{1}$ = H, Me, Et; R^{2} = allyl, propargyl, benzyl, Me, CH₂CO₂Bu-t.

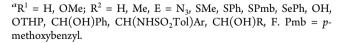
74.8%), and for the aromatization $(6 \rightarrow 7)$ the yields were 82–92%.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our experiments were limited to *alkylation*, and we found that only reactive halides such as allylic, benzylic and propargylic halides, α -halo esters, and methyl iodide were suitable. However, we have since examined the possibility of using other electrophiles, and we find that the alkylations shown generically in Scheme 2 represent only one type of example of a new family of routes to phenols; the generation of this family is summarized in Scheme 3 where E denotes a wide variety of groups easily installed with electrophilic reagents. So far, we have examined compounds of type 8 in which R¹ is MeO or H, and R² is H or Me.

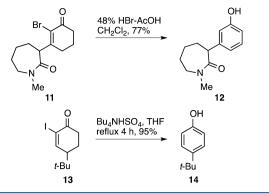
Scheme 3. General Family of Routes to Substituted Phenols^a





The closest precedents we can find for the aromatization step are the reports summarized in Scheme 4, which shows that aromatization of a bromoenone $(11 \rightarrow 12)$ was induced with 40% HBr–AcOH in $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2^{2,3}$ There is also the incidental observation, made during studies on the preparation of

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(benzoyloxy)enones, that treatment of iodoenone 13 with Bu_4NHSO_4 in refluxing THF (4 h) gives phenol 14.^{4,5}

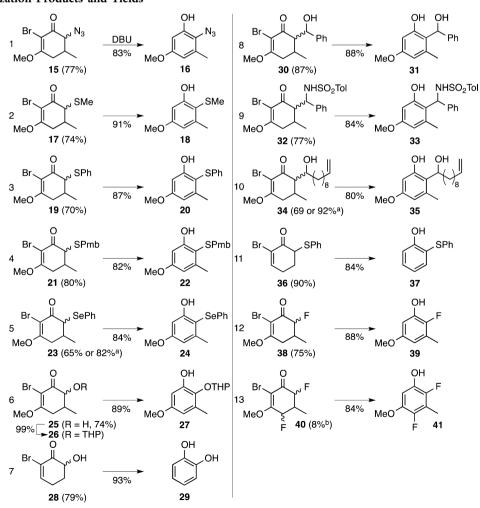
We have applied the principle expressed in Scheme 3 to the preparation of a number of phenols. Our results are listed in Table 1 which also includes the outcome of a modification (entry 6) that extends the approach to 1,2-benzenediols. The significance of the overall process is that it directly links the ability to functionalize a cyclohexenone-like structure α to the carbonyl on the one hand with the correspondingly substituted

Table 1. Aromatization Products and Yields

benzene ring and does this reliably and in good yield under mild conditions. The starting bromoenones such as **8** are readily made by bromination⁶ of 3-methoxycyclohexenones or cyclohexenones, which are themselves available by several straightforward classical procedures.⁷

Sulfenylation of 2-bromo-3-methoxycyclohex-2-en-1-one (entries 2–4) is easily achieved by deprotonation of the parent carbonyl compound (1, LDA) and quenching with a reagent of the type RSSO₂Tol (R = Me, Ph, Pmb).⁸ Likewise, phenyl-selenation is straightforward (LDA, PhSeCl). All of the enone sulfur derivatives, irrespective of whether the substituent on the chalcogen is aromatic or aliphatic, undergo efficient aromatization (yields 82–91%) on treatment with DBU in PhMe at room temperature. For selenium, we have examined only a phenyl substituent. These reactions are quite fast, being complete within 20 min to 2 h. In contrast, the azide 15 (entry 1), which is readily prepared by treating the appropriate enolate (generated with LDA) with 2,4,6-triisopropylbenzen-sulfonyl azide,⁹ requires about 5 h.

It is noteworthy that the aldol products (entries 8 and 10) do not suffer dehydration. In the case of the benzaldehyde adduct **30**, it is evident that base-induced dehydration, which would be facilitated by the presence of conjugation in the resulting product, is not a significant pathway, if it occurs at all, so that



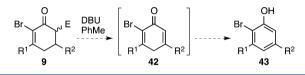
"Yield corrected for recovered starting 3-methoxybromoenone. ^bYield deliberately suppressed; the compound is a byproduct when using only 1.05 equiv of fluorinating agent.

The sulfonamide **32** (entry 9), easily made by enolate condensation with *N*-(toluenesulfonyl)benzaldimine¹⁰ is also aromatized smoothly, but slowly; it was generated in an overnight reaction period in 84% yield.

Where the substituent introduced at the beginning is an oxygen atom [Table 1, entries 6 and 7; use of 2-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)-3-phenyloxaziridine)¹¹], we found that for the simple enone **28** aromatization proceeded normally, but for the 3-methoxyenone **25**, protection of the hydroxyl is required, and a THP ether was found to be suitable.

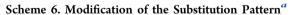
When E^+ (see Scheme 3) is a heteroatom, there is the potential for elimination within the six-membered ring (Scheme 5, $9 \rightarrow 42 \rightarrow 43$). Fortunately, for all the sulfur, selenium, and

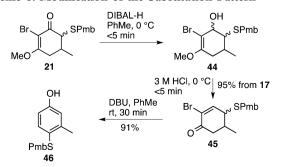
Scheme 5. Potential Side Reaction



oxygen substituents we have examined, such elimination does not occur; however, it does occur with bromine (E = Br) but not with fluorine. Surprisingly, the fluoro compound **38** (entry 12) was aromatized rather slowly and was best generated by overnight exposure to DBU (PhMe, room temperature). We noticed that the difluoro compound **40** was always formed as a byproduct in the generation¹² of **38**, but the amount could be suppressed to a level of 8% by using no more than 1.05 equiv of the commercial fluorinating reagent $[FN(SO_2Ph)_2]$ and, with this stoichiometry, the yield of the monofluoride **38** was 75%. The use of a very slight excess of the fluorinating reagent, rather than exactly 1 equiv, gives a better result.

The substitution pattern of the final aromatic product can easily be modified by DIBAL-H reduction of the penultimate bromoenone.¹³ For example, bromoenone **21** was reduced (1 equiv of DIBAL-H in PhMe at 0 °C, <5 min), treated briefly (<5 min) with 3 M hydrochloric acid at 0 °C, and, after product isolation, exposed to the action of DBU in PhMe. These operations served to convert **21** into **46** (Scheme 6). 3-Alkoxy-2-halocyclohex-2-en-1-ones do not appear to have been reduced before with hydride reagents, and we find that DIBAL-H in PhMe gives a much better result than DIBAL-H in CH₂Cl₂ or LiAlH₄ in Et₂O. The example shown in Scheme 6 was chosen as a demanding test because there again exists the potential for elimination of the PmbS group, but, in the event,





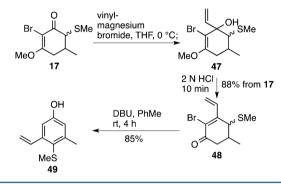
^{*a*}Pmb = *p*-methoxybenzyl.

this does not occur and the overall transformation is extremely efficient in removing the methoxy group and affording a different regiochemical pattern to that resulting directly from 21 itself.

As illustrated by entries 7 and 11, the presence of the C-3 methoxy group is not required for the aromatization, but it does play a subtle role in the first step (cf. $5 \rightarrow 6$) because, in its absence, that first step does not work if there is a substituent at C-5.

In a process analogous to the conversion of 21 to 46, reaction of 17 with a Grignard reagent (we used vinyl-magnesium bromide), mild acid hydrolysis, and aromatization with DBU generates phenol 49 (Scheme 7), in which the

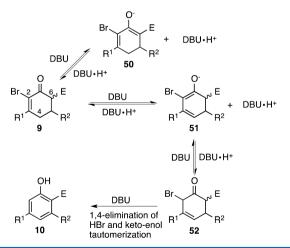




noteworthy feature is that the new substituent has been introduced meta to the hydroxyl, an orientation that is complementary to that provided by classical electrophilic substitution of phenol derivatives.

The probable mechanism for the aromatization is shown in Scheme 8, and, on that basis, all of these transformations

Scheme 8. Mechanism of the Aromatization



depend on the ability of the 2-bromocyclohex-2-en-1-one unit to undergo deconjugation (see $9 \rightarrow 52$, Scheme 8) in the presence of DBU, so that elimination of HBr ($52 \rightarrow 10$) can then take place. The process must involve initial removal of a C-4 hydrogen from a *nonenolized* enone system (9), and so the relative acidity of the C-4 and C-6 hydrogens, as well as the p K_a of the base (and possibly its steric requirements) are critical for the successful outcome. The choice of DBU was not arbitrary; when we tried pyridine with 1, there was no reaction and the compound was equally inert to Et_3N . The deconjugation is evidently easy, as the aromatization proceeds at room temperature in good yield (80–92%).

CONCLUSION

The possibility of using both kinetic enolization of bromoenone systems and conditions more attractive than those of Scheme 4 for aromatization have not been appreciated previously; neither of the precedents in Scheme 4 made use of functionalization α to the carbonyl, but, as shown here, such an enolate-based approach opens a simple and general route to an extensive range of aromatics.

Our results establish that deprotonation of 2-bromocyclohex-2-en-1-one systems and quenching with various azido, carbonyl, fluorine, oxygen, sulfur, selenium, N-(sulfonyl)aldimine, and alkyl¹ electrophiles gives the expected α -substituted adducts which, in turn, undergo efficient aromatization on exposure to the action of DBU in PhMe at room temperature. The regiochemistry of the final products is established in the initial reaction α to the carbonyl and is highly regiocontrolled, while the aromatic products themselves are functionalized in a way that allows further manipulation. The process is clearly general and is based on a previously unrecognized characteristic of the 2-bromocyclohex-2-en-1-one structure: the ability to effect irreversible kinetic deprotonation at C-6 with LDA and then to deprotonate the system reversibly at C-4 with DBU. The overall procedure constitutes a new family of routes to phenolic compounds that have been functionalized in a regiocontrolled manner and gives direct and efficient access to a wide range of phenols.¹⁴ If the initial product before aromatization is reduced with DIBAL-H or treated with a Grignard reagent, then the scope is enlarged to a further range of substitution patterns. When a Grignard reagent RMgX is used, a noteworthy result is that the R group is meta to the phenolic hydroxyl in the final product. For some purposes, the transition metal-free nature of the process will be an important advantage.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Procedures. Solvents used for chromatography were distilled before use. Commercial thin layer chromatography plates (silica gel, Merck 60F-254) were used. Silica gel for flash chromatography was Merck type 60 (230–400 mesh). The specified solvents were the same as those used for TLC monitoring of the reactions. Dry solvents were prepared under an inert atmosphere and transferred by syringe or cannula. The symbols *s*, d, t, and q used for ¹³C NMR spectra indicate zero, one, two, or three attached hydrogens, respectively, the assignments being made from APT spectra. Solutions were evaporated under water pump vacuum, and the residue was then kept under oil pump vacuum. High resolution electrospray mass spectrometric analyses were done with an orthogonal time-of-flight analyzer, and electron ionization mass spectra were measured with a double-focusing sector mass spectrometer.

6-Azido-2-bromo-3-methoxy-5-methylcyclohexe-2-en-1one (15). *n*-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.13 mL, 0.325 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of *i*-Pr₂NH (0.05 mL, 0.357 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL). Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 30 min, and then a solution of **1** (65 mg, 0.297 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, so that the temperature rose to 0 °C over 2 h. The mixture was then recooled to -78 °C, and a solution of 2,4,6triisopropylbenzenesulfonyl azide⁵ (180 mg, 0.582 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, and stirring was continued for 1 h, by which point the temperature had risen to -20 °C. A solution of AcOH in THF (1 N, 0.33 mL) was added, and the solvent was evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 × 15 cm), using 1:3 EtOAc–hexanes, gave **15** (59.5 mg, 77%) as a pale yellow oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 2104, 1668 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (major isomer) 1.15 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 2.34–2.40 (m, 1 H), 2.50–2.55 (m, 1 H), 2.62–2.90 (m, 1 H), 3.97 (s, 3 H), 4.04–4.05 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (major isomer) 15.9 (q), 31.0 (t), 33.0 (d), 56.7 (d), 66.7 (q), 100.0 (s), 172.8 (s), 186.6 (s); exact mass (electron ionization) *m/z* calcd for C₈H₁₀O₂⁷⁹BrN₃ (M)⁺ 258.9956, found 258.9951.

2-Azido-5-methoxy-3-methylphenol (16). DBU (67 mg, 0.44 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **15** (56.1 mg, 0.215 mmol) in PhMe (1 mL). Stirring was continued for 1 h, and the reaction mixture was diluted with 5% hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 × 15 cm), using 1:5 EtOAc-hexanes, gave **16** (32.1 mg, 83%) as a pale yellow, thick oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3366, 2115, 1614 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 2.34 (s, 3 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 5.40 (br s, 1 H), 6.29 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.34 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 17.1 (q), 56.3 (q), 99.3 (d), 108.6 (d), 127.7 (s), 163.2 (s), 172.0 (s); exact mass (electrospray) *m/z* calcd for C₈H₈O₂N₃ (M - H)⁻ 178.0622, found 178.0621.

2-Bromo-3-methoxy-5-methyl-6-(methylsulfanyl)cyclohex-2-en-1-one (17). n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.13 mL, 0.325 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of i- Pr_2NH (0.05 mL, 0.357 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL). Stirring at $-78\ ^\circ C$ was continued for 30 min, and then a solution of 1 (65 mg, 0.297 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, so that the temperature rose to 0 °C over 2.5 h. The mixture was then recooled to -78 °C, and a solution of TolSO₂SMe^{8b} (132 mg, 0.653 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, and stirring was continued for 4 h, during which the mixture reached room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NH4Cl and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 × 15 cm), using 1:3 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 17 (58.2 mg, 74%) as a pale yellow oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 1655 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (major isomer) 1.20 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 2.15 (s, 3 H), 2.42-3.05 (m, 3 H), 3.25-3.34 (m, 1 H), 3.93 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (major isomer) 14.2 (q), 19.6 (q), 31.0 (t), 31.5 (d), 54.5 (d), 56.3 (q), 99.7 (s), 169.0 (s), 187.3 (s); exact mass (electron ionization) m/z calcd for C₉H₁₃O₂⁷⁹BrS (M)⁺ 263.9819, found 263.9813.

5-Methoxy-3-methyl-2-(methylsulfanyl)phenol (18). DBU (35.6 mg, 0.234 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 17 (31 mg, 0.117 mmol) in PhMe (1 mL). Stirring was continued for 1 h, and the reaction mixture was diluted with 5% hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 × 15 cm), using 1:4 EtOAc–hexanes, gave **18** (19.6 mg, 91%) as a colorless oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3374, 1608 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 2.16 (s, 3 H), 2.48 (s, 3 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.43 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.14 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 18.7 (q), 20.9 (q), 55.2 (q), 97.3 (d), 108.7 (d), 111.4 (s), 144.1 (s), 158.2 (s), 161.2 (s); exact mass (electrospray) *m*/*z* calcd for C₉H₁₁O₂S (M – H)⁻ 183.0485, found 183.0488.

2-Bromo-3-methoxy-5-methyl-6-(phenylsulfanyl)cyclohex-2-en-1-one (19). *n*-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.13 mL, 0.325 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of *i*-Pr₂NH (0.05 mL, 0.357 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL). Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 30 min, and then a solution of 1 (65 mg, 0.297 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, so that the temperature rose to 0 °C over 2.5 h. The mixture was then recooled to -78 °C and a solution of TolSO₂SPh^{8b} (123 mg, 0.442 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, and stirring was continued for 3 h, during which the

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mixture reached room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 × 15 cm), using 1:5 EtOAc–hexanes, gave **19** (67.8 mg, 70%) as a pale yellow oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 1664 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (major isomer) 1.12 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 2.38–2.42 (m, 1 H), 2.51–2.53 (m, 1 H), 3.18–3.22 (m, 1 H), 3.96–3.72 (m, 1 H), 4.18 (s, 3 H), 7.36–7.38 (m, 3 H), 7.46–7.48 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (major isomer) 19.4 (q), 33.0 (d), 39.5 (t), 50.7 (d), 56.6 (q), 104.8 (s), 128.9 (d), 129.6 (d), 132.5 (s), 132.8 (d), 167.1 (s), 189.5 (s); exact mass (electron ionization) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₁₅O₂⁷⁹BrS (M)⁺ 325.9976, found 325.9973.

5-Methoxy-3-methyl-2-(phenylsulfanyl)phenol (20). DBU (61.6 mg, 0.405 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 19 (60.3 mg, 0.184 mmol) in PhMe (1 mL). Stirring was continued for 2 h, and the reaction mixture was diluted with 5% hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (0.8×10 cm), using 1:4 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 20 (39.5 mg, 87%) as a white solid: mp 102-104 °C; FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3359 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 2.37 (s, 3 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 4.83 (br s, 1 H), 6.38 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.44 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.96-6.98 (m, 2 H), 7.02-7.06 (m, 1 H), 7.15-7.18 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 21.4 (q), 56.2 (q), 97.4 (d), 109.7 (d), 110.2 (s), 124.4 (d), 125.5 (d), 128.6 (d), 138.6 (s), 146.6 (s), 157.6 (s), 162.2 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/z calcd for C14H13O2S (M - H)⁻ 245.0642, found 245.0640. Anal. Calcd for C14H14O2S: C, 68.26; H, 5.73; S, 13.02. Found: C, 68.47; H, 5.73; S,

2-Bromo-3-methoxy-6-{[(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl]sulfanyl}-5-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-one (21). n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.13 mL, 0.325 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of i-Pr₂NH (0.05 mL, 0.357 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL). Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 30 min, and then a solution of 1 (65 mg, 0.297 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, so that the temperature rose to 0 °C over 3.5 h. The mixture was then recooled to -78 °C, and a solution of TolSO₂SPmb^{8c} (113 mg, 0.387 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, and stirring was continued for 1 h, by which point the temperature had risen to -20 °C. The reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NH4Cl and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 × 15 cm), using 1:3 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 21 (84.3 mg, 80%) as a colorless oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 1657, 1609 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ (major isomer) 1.12 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 2.32–2.57 (m, 2 H), 2.93-2.99 (m, 1 H), 3.21-3.28 (m, 1 H), 3.68-3.84 (m, 5 H), 3.91 (s, 3 H), 6.82–6.85 (m, 2 H), 7.29–7.32 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (major isomer) 19.7 (q), 31.1 (t), 31.9 (d), 34.1 (t), 51.5 (d), 55.3 (q), 56.4 (q), 99.9 (s), 113.8 (d), 129.4 (s), 130.4 (d), 158.7 (s), 169.1 (s), 187.7 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/zcalcd for $C_{16}H_{20}O_3^{79}BrS (M + H)^+ 371.0311$, found 371.0309.

5-Methoxy-2-{[(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl]sulfanyl}-3-methylphenol (22). DBU (50.9 mg, 0.335 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **21** (58.0 mg, 0.163 mmol) in PhMe (1 mL). Stirring was continued for 2 h, and the reaction mixture was diluted with 5% hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (0.8 × 10 cm), using 1:4 EtOAc–hexanes, gave **22** (36.7 mg, 82%) as a white solid: mp 48–50 °C; FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3377, 1614 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 2.25 (s, 3 H), 3.67 (s, 2 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 6.35 (dd, *J* = 3.0, 0.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.38 (dd, *J* = 3.0, 0.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.77–6.78 (m, 2 H), 6.93 (s, 1 H), 6.97–6.99 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 21.1 (q), 39.7 (t), 55.2 (q), 55.3 (q), 97.2 (d), 108.6 (d), 109.4 (s), 113.9 (d), 129.7 (s), 129.9 (d), 144.9 (s), 158.7

(s), 158.9 (s), 161.4 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/z calcd for $C_{16}H_{17}O_3S$ (M – H)⁻ 289.0904, found 289.0902.

2-Bromo-3-methoxy-5-methyl-6-(phenylselenyl)cyclohex-2en-1-one (23). n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.13 mL, 0.325 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of *i*-Pr₂NH (0.05 mL, 0.357 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL). Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 30 min, and then a solution of 1 (65 mg, 0.297 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, so that the temperature rose to 0 $^\circ\mathrm{C}$ over 2.5 h. The mixture was then recooled to -78 °C, and a solution of PhSeCl (113 mg, 0.590 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, and stirring was continued for 4 h, during which the mixture reached room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NH4Cl and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 × 15 cm), using 1:3 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 23 [72.1 mg, 65%, or 82% corrected for recovered 1 (11.1 mg)]) as a pale yellow oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 1657 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (major isomer) 1.17 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 2.42-3.01 (m, 3 H), 3.87-3.91 (m, 4 H), 7.26–7.33 (m, 3 H), 7.59–7.61 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (major isomer) 19.9 (q), 31.2 (t), 32.4 (d), 52.0 (d), 56.4 (q), 100.7 (s), 127.6 (s), 128.6 (d), 129.2 (d), 135.5 (d), 171.1 (s), 187.5 (s); exact mass (electron ionization) m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{15}O_2^{79}Br^{80}Se (M)^+$ 373.9421, found 373.9420.

5-Methoxy-3-methyl-2-(phenylselenyl)phenol (24). DBU (45 mg, 0.296 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 23 (50.3 mg, 0.134 mmol) in PhMe (1 mL). Stirring was continued for 8 h, and the reaction mixture was diluted with 5% hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel $(0.8 \times 10 \text{ cm})$, using 1:10 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 24 (33.3 mg, 84%) as a white solid: mp 74–76 °C; FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3384, 1602 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 2.41 (s, 3 H), 3.81 (s, 3 H), 6.49 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.52 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.79 (s, 1 H), 7.12–7.21 (m, 5 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 23.6 (q), 55.3 (q), 97.3 (d), 107.1 (s), 109.1 (d), 126.4 (d), 128.5 (d), 129.4 (d), 131.1 (s), 145.2 (s), 158.4 (s), 162.3 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/z calcd for $C_{14}H_{13}O_2^{80}Se$ (M – H)⁻ 293.0086, found 293.0091. A sample was recrystallized from hexane for combustion analysis. Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₄O₂Se: C, 57.37; H, 4.81. Found: C, 57.25; H, 4.82. Another sample was crystallized from hexane-CH₂Cl₂ for X-ray analysis (see Supporting Information).

2-Bromo-6-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-methylcyclohex-2-en-1one (25). n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.26 mL, 0.65 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of *i*-Pr₂NH (0.10 mL, 0.713 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL). Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 30 min, and then a solution of 1 (130 mg, 0.594 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, so that the temperature rose to 0 °C over 3.5 h. The mixture was then recooled to -78 °C, and a solution of 2-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)-3-phenyloxaziridine)¹¹ (250 mg, 0.909 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, and stirring was continued for 4 h, during which the mixture reached room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NaHCO3 and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel $(1 \times 15 \text{ cm})$, using 1:1 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 25 (103.3 mg, 74%) as a colorless oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3346, 1666 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 1.00 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 2.71–2.75 (m, 2 H), 2.92 (dd, J = 18.0, 5.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.75 (br s, 1 H), 3.99 (s, 3 H), 4.31 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 11.9 (q), 32.4 (d), 32.6 (t), 56.6 (q), 74.5 (d), 97.8 (s), 171.1 (s), 191.9 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/z calcd for $C_8H_{10}O_3^{79}Br$ (M – H)⁻ 232.9819, found 232.9816.

2-Bromo-3-methoxy-5-methyl-6-(oxan-2-yloxy)cyclohex-2-en-1-one (26). 3,4-Dihydropyran (20 mg, 0.208 mmol) and pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (0.8 mg, 0.0032 mmol) were added

to a stirred solution of **25** (40.1 mg, 0.171 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL). Stirring was continued for 5 h, and the reaction mixture was then diluted with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated to give **26** (55.9 mg, ca. 99%) as an oil that was a mixture of isomers (¹H NMR) which was used directly in the next step.

5-Methoxy-3-methyl-2-(oxan-2-yloxy)phenol (27). DBU (111 mg, 0.730 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 26 (55.9 mg, ca. 0.171 mmol) in PhMe (1 mL). Stirring was continued overnight, and the reaction mixture was diluted with ice-cold saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel $(0.8 \times 10 \text{ cm})$, using 1:10 EtoAc-hexanes, gave 27 (37.9 mg, 89%) as a colorless, thick oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3327, 1620 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 1.55-2.06 (m, 6 H), 2.19 (s, 3 H), 3.55-3.60 (m, 1 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H), 4.14-4.16 (m, 1 H), 4.64 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.24 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.38 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.91 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 16.6 (q), 21.4 (t), 24.7 (t), 31.4 (t), 55.4 (q), 66.4 (t), 100.1 (d), 104.9 (d), 107.2 (d), 132.0 (s), 138.1 (s), 150.3 (s), 156.7 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/z calcd for $C_{13}H_{17}O_4$ (M - H)⁻ 237.1132, found 237.1130.

2-Bromo-6-hydroxycyclohex-2-en-1-one (28). n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.21 mL, 0.525 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of i-Pr₂NH (0.09 mL, 0.642 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL). Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 30 min, and then a solution of 2-bromocyclohex-2-en-1-one^{6b} (85.2 mg, 0.487 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 1 h and 2-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)-3-phenyl- $\mathsf{oxaziridine})^{11}$ (102 mg, 0.584 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, and stirring was continued for 4 h, during which the mixture reached room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NH4Cl and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with ice-cold aqueous 0.1%w/ v NaOH and brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel $(1 \times 15 \text{ cm})$, using 1:3 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 28 (73.4 mg, 79%) as a colorless oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3482 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 1.94-2.04 (m, 1 H), 2.40-2.46 (m, 1 H), 2.55-2.58 (m, 2 H), 3.57 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.30 (ddd, J = 13.5, 5.5, 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.40–7.42 (m, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 26.7 (t), 30.7 (t), 73.3 (d), 120.2 (s), 152.2 (d), 193.9 (s); exact mass (electron ionization) m/z calcd for $C_6H_7O_2^{79}Br (M)^+$ 189.9629, found 189.9629.

Benzene-1,2-diol (29).¹⁵ DBU (120 mg, 0.789 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **28** (69.9 mg, 0.366 mmol) in PhMe (1 mL). Stirring was continued overnight, and the reaction mixture was diluted with a few (5–6) drops of AcOH. The PhMe and excess of AcOH were evaporated, and flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (0.8 × 10 cm), using 1:1 EtOAc–hexanes, gave **29** (37.4 mg, 93%) as an off-white solid: mp 102–104 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 5.09 (s, 2 H), 6.81–6.83 (m, 2 H), 6.87–6.88 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 115.5 (d), 121.3 (d), 143.5 (s).

2-Bromo-6-[hydroxy(phenyl)methyl]-3-methoxy-5-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-one (30). n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.26 mL, 0.650 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of *i*-Pr₂NH (0.10 mL, 0.714 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL). Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 30 min, and then a solution of 1 (131 mg, 0.598 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, so that the temperature rose to 0 °C over 3.5 h. The mixture was then recooled to -78 °C and PhCHO (0.24 mL, 2.39 mmol) was added dropwise over <1 min. Stirring was continued for 20 min at -78 °C. A solution of AcOH in THF (1 N, 0.65 mL) was added, and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was partitioned between water and EtOAc, and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried $(MgSO_4)$, and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 × 15 cm), using 1:3 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 30 (143 mg, 87%) as a white solid: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3438, 1652 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR

(CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (major isomer) 1.07 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 2.03–2.40 (m, 2 H), 2.66–2.90 (m, 2 H), 3.16 (br s, 1 H), 3.94 (s, 3 H), 4.81–5.08 (m, 1 H), 7.26–7.37 (m, 5 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (major isomer) 20.6 (q), 28.0 (d), 31.8 (t), 56.4 (d), 59.5 (q), 74.7 (d), 101.4 (s), 126.5 (d), 128.1 (d), 128.7 (d), 141.7 (s), 171.2 (s), 192.6 (s); exact mass (electron ionization) m/z calcd for C₁₅H₁₇O₃⁷⁹Br (M)⁺ 324.0361, found 324.0356.

2-[Hydroxy(phenyl)methyl]-5-methoxy-3-methylphenol (31). DBU (0.10 mL, 0.696 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 30 (113 mg, 0.348 mmol) in PhMe (1.5 mL). Stirring was continued overnight, and the reaction mixture was diluted with 5% hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel $(1 \times 10 \text{ cm})$, using 1:4 EtOAchexanes, gave 31 (74.6 mg, 88%) as a white solid: mp 113-115 °C; FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3319, 1623 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 2.15 (s, 3 H), 2.72 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 6.17 (d, J = 2.5Hz, 1 H), 6.29 (dd, J = 2.5, 1.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.38 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.30–7.37 (m, 5 H), 8.59 (s, 1 H); 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 19.9 (q), 55.2 (q), 74.6 (d), 100.7 (d), 108.6 (d), 116.4 (s), 127.1 (d), 128.3 (d), 128.8 (d), 136.8 (s), 141.2 (s), 157.7 (s), 160.1 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/z calcd for $C_{15}H_{15}O_3$ (M - H)⁻ 243.1027, found 243.1026. A sample was recrystallized from hexane for combustion analysis. Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₆O₃: C, 73.75; H, 6.60. Found: C, 73.38; H, 6.56.

N-[(3-Bromo-4-methoxy-6-methyl-2-oxocyclohex-3-en-1-yl)-(phenyl)methyl]-4-methylbenzene-1-sulfonamide (32). n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.26 mL, 0.650 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of i-Pr2NH (0.10 mL, 0.714 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL). Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 30 min and then a solution of 1 (130 mg, 0.598 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, so that the temperature rose to 0 °C over 3.5 h. The mixture was then recooled to -78 °C, and a solution of *N*-(toluenesulfonyl)benzaldimine¹⁰ (300 mg, 1.16 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, and stirring was continued for 1 h, by which point the temperature had risen to -20 °C. The reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel $(1 \times 15 \text{ cm})$, using 1:1 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 32 (218.5 mg, 77%) as a colorless oil: FTIR (CDCl_3, cast) 3358, 1657 cm $^{-1}$; $^1\mathrm{H}$ NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (major isomer) 1.26 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3 H), 2.41–2.39 (m, 5 H), 2.57 (dd, J = 8.5, 5.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.83 (dd, J = 8.5, 5.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.94 (s, 3 H), 4.67 (dd, J = 8.0, 5.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.78 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.04–7.11 (m, 7 H), 7.44–7.45 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR $(CDCl_3, 125 \text{ MHz}) \delta$ (major isomer) 19.9 (q), 21.4 (q), 29.3 (d), 33.3 (t), 56.4 (d), 56.5 (q), 58.9 (d), 101.6 (s), 126.9 (d), 127.0 (d), 127.1 (d), 128.2 (d), 129.2 (d), 137.6 (s), 139.5 (s), 142.9 (s), 171.4 (s), 191.4 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/z calcd for $C_{22}H_{25}O_4^{-79}BrNS$ $(M + H)^+$ 478.0682, found 478.0687.

N-[(2-Hydroxy-4-methoxy-6-methylphenyl)(phenyl)methyl]-4-methylbenzene-1-sulfonamide (33). DBU (148 mg, 0.966 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 32 (210 mg, 0.439 mmol) in PhMe (3 mL). Stirring was continued overnight, and the reaction mixture was diluted with 5% hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried $(MgSO_4)$, and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel $(1 \times 10 \text{ cm})$, using 1:5 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 33 (147 mg, 84%) as a white solid: mp 58-60 °C; FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3326, 1614 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 2.11 (s, 3 H), 2.32 (s, 3 H), 3.69 (s, 3 H), 5.68 (s, 1 H), 5.76 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.00 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.17 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.25 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.22–7.26 (m, 5 H), 7.52–7.54 (m, 2 H); $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 20.1 (q), 21.4 (q), 55.2 (q), 55.4 (d), 100.5 (d), 108.4 (d), 117.0 (s), 126.6 (d), 126.8 (d), 127.3 (d), 128.4 (d), 129.1 (d), 137.2 (s), 138.3 (s), 140.1 (s), 142.9 (s), 154.3 (s), 159.6 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/z calcd for $C_{22}H_{22}NO_4S$ (M - H)⁻ 396.1275, found 396.1282.

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2-Bromo-6-(1-hydroxyundec-10-en-1-yl)-3-methoxy-5methylcyclohex-2-en-1-one (34). n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.13 mL, 0.325 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of *i*-Pr₂NH (0.05 mL, 0.357 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL). Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 30 min, and then a solution of 1 (65 mg, 0.298 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, so that the temperature rose to 0 °C over 4.5 h. The mixture was then recooled to -78 °C, and a solution of undec-10-enal (74.8 mg, 0.445 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, and stirring at -78 °C was continued for 10 min. A solution of AcOH in THF (1 N, 0.33 mL) was added, and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was partitioned between water and EtOAc, and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 × 15 cm), using 1:3 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 34 [79.3 mg, 69% or 92% corrected for recovered 1 (14.8 mg)] as a colorless oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3485, 1653 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 1.18 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3 H), 1.25–1.79 (m, 14 H), 2.00–2.24 (m, 4 H), 2.36–2.43 (m, 2 H), 2.87–2.90 (m, 1 H), 3.82 (br s, 1 H), 3.94 (s, 3 H), 4.90-5.00 (m, 2 H), 5.75-5.85 (m, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 20.3 (q), 26.1 (t), 28.9 (t), 29.1 (t), 29.4 (t), 29.5 (t), 29.6 (t), 29.9 (d), 33.8 (t), 33.8 (t), 36.4 (t), 56.3 (d), 57.2 (q), 71.4 (d), 102.3 (s), 114.1 (t), 139.2 (d), 171.4 (s), 192.7 (s); exact mass (electron ionization) m/z calcd for $C_{19}H_{31}O_3^{79}Br$ (M)⁺ 386.1456, found 386.1450.

2-(1-Hydroxyundec-10-en-1-yl)-5-methoxy-3-methylphenol (35). DBU (17.8 mg, 0.117 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 34 (22.7 mg, 0.0587 mmol) in PhMe (2 mL). Stirring was continued overnight, and the reaction mixture was diluted with 5% hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (0.8×10 cm), using 1:4 EtOAchexanes, gave 35 (14.3 mg, 80%) as a thick oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3435, 3177, 1627 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 1.26–1.37 (m, 12 H), 1.62–1.72 (m, 1 H), 1.88–2.60 (m, 3 H), 2.19 (s, 3 H), 2.36 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.75 (s, 3 H), 4.92–5.00 (m, 2 H), 5.08–5.10 (m, 1 H), 5.78–5.84 (m, 1 H), 6.24 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.32 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 8.49 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 19.8 (q), 26.0 (t), 28.9 (t), 29.1 (t), 29.4 (t), 29.4 (t), 29.5 (t), 33.8 (t), 36.3 (t), 55.2 (q), 72.7 (d), 100.6 (d), 108.3 (d), 114.1 (t), 118.3 (s), 135.8 (s), 139.2 (d), 157.5 (s), 159.6 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/z calcd for $C_{19}H_{29}O_3 (M - H)^-$ 305.2122, found 305.2123.

2-Bromo-6-(phenylsulfanyl)cyclohex-2-en-1-one (36). n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.26 mL, 0.650 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of i-Pr₂NH (0.10 mL, 0.714 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL). Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 30 min, and then a solution of 2-bromocyclohex-2-enone^{6b} (96 mg, 0.548 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, so that the temperature rose to 0 °C over 3.5 h. The mixture was then recooled to -78 °C and PhCHO (0.24 mL, 2.39 mmol) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, and stirring was continued for 4 h, during which the mixture reached room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel $(1 \times 15 \text{ cm})$, using 1:8 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 36 (139.5 mg, 90%) as a colorless oil: FTIR $(CDCl_3, cast)$ 1684 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR $(CDCl_3, 500 \text{ MHz}) \delta$ 2.28–2.32 (m, 1 H), 2.46–2.49 (m, 2 H), 2.71–2.77 (m, 1 H), 4.04 (dd, J = 4.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.32–7.37 (m, 4 H), 7.48–7.50 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 25.9 (t), 28.7 (t), 53.2 (d), 122.1 (s), 128.4 (d), 129.2 (d), 132.2 (s), 133.5 (d), 149.5 (d), 186.9 (s); exact mass (electron ionization) m/z calcd for $C_{12}H_{11}O^{79}BrS$ (M)⁺ 281.9714, found 281,9716.

2-(Phenylsulfanyl)phenol (37).¹⁶ DBU (89 mg, 0.585 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **36** (83.4 mg, 0.293 mmol) in PhMe (2 mL). Stirring was continued for 30 min, and the reaction mixture was diluted with 5% hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc. The

combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (0.8 × 10 cm), using 1:15 EtOAc–hexanes, gave 37 (50.3 mg, 84%) as a pale yellow oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3424, 1595 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 6.50 (s, 1 H), 6.96 (ddd, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.06–7.10 (m, 3 H), 7.14–7.17 (m, 1 H), 7.22–7.25 (m, 3 H), 7.36– 7.40 (m, 1 H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1.5 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 115.6 (d), 116.3 (s), 121.3 (d), 126.2 (d), 126.9 (d), 129.2 (d), 132.3 (d), 135.9 (s), 136.9 (d), 157.3 (s); exact mass (electrospray) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₂H₉OS (M – H)⁻ 201.0380, found 201.0387.

2-Bromo-6-fluoro-3-methoxy-5-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-one (38) and 2-Bromo-4,6-difluoro-3-methoxy-5-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-one (40). n-BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 0.26 mL, 0.65 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred and cooled (-78 °C) solution of i-Pr₂NH (0.10 mL, 0.713 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL). Stirring at -78 °C was continued for 30 min, and then a solution of 1 (130 mg, 0.594 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, so that the temperature rose to 0 $^\circ\mathrm{C}$ over 3.5 h. The mixture was then recooled to -78 °C, and a solution of commercial N-fluorobenzenesulfonimide (196 mg, 0.622 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min. The cold bath was left in place, but not recharged, and stirring was continued for 4 h, during which the mixture reached room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NaHCO3 and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 \times 15 cm), using 1:3 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 38 (105 mg, 75%) and 40 (12 mg, 8%) as colorless oils: Compound 38: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 1677 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 1.22 and 1.29 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, integration together 3 H), 2.37-2.96 (m, 3 H), 3.98 and 3.99 (s, integration together 3 H), 4.59 (dd, J = 48.5, 11.5 Hz) and 4.82 (dd, J = 49.5, 3.0 Hz) integration together 1 H; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (major isomer) 14.6 (q), 30.8 (t), 32.3 (d), 56.7 (q), 91.1 (d), 100.2 (s), 171.9 (s), 185.6 (s); exact mass (electron ionization) m/z calcd for $C_8H_{10}O_2^{79}BrF$ (M)⁺ 235.9848, found 235.9852. Compound 40: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 1698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (major isomer) 1.13 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 2.54-3.00 (m, 1 H), 4.12 (s, 3 H), 4.91-5.41 (m, 2 H). The ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) was too complicated to be informative; exact mass (electron ionization) m/z calcd for $C_8H_9O_2^{79}BrF_2$ (M)⁺ 253.9754, found 253.9753.

2-Fluoro-5-methoxy-3-methylphenol (39). DBU (98 mg, 0.644 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **38** (75.4 mg, 0.318 mmol) in PhMe (1.5 mL). Stirring was continued overnight, and the reaction mixture was diluted with 5% hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 × 15 cm), using 1:5 EtOAc–hexanes, gave **39** (43.5 mg, 88%) as a colorless, thick oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3390, 1604 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 2.24 (tt, *J* = 2.5, 0.5 Hz, 3 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H), 5.02 (br s, 1 H), 6.23–6.25 (m, 2 H), 6.39–6.41 (m, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 14.6 (q), 55.6 (q), 100.2 (d), 107.4 (d), 125.4 (s), 143.7 (s), 145.5 (s), 155.6 (s); exact mass (electrospray) *m*/*z* calcd for C₈H₈O₂F (M – H)⁻ 155.0514, found 155.0514.

2,4-Difluoro-5-methoxy-3-methylphenol (41). DBU (50.6 mg, 0.333 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **40** (42.4 mg, 0.166 mmol) in PhMe (1 mL). Stirring was continued overnight, and the reaction mixture was diluted with 5% hydrochloric acid and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (1 × 15 cm), using 1:5 EtOAc–hexanes, gave **41** (24.4 mg, 84%) as a colorless, thick oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3429, 1613 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 2.21 (t, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 3 H), 3.82 (s, 3 H), 4.86 (br s, 1 H), 6.50 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 7.6 (q), 56.7 (q), 99.4 (d), 114.1 (s), 138.9 (s), 142.1 (s), 143.9 (s), 145.3 (s); exact mass (electrospray) *m*/*z* calcd for C₈H₇O₂F₂ (M – H)⁻ 173.0420, found 173.0419.

2-Bromo-4-{[(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl]sufanyl}-5-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-one (45). DIBAL-H (1.0 M in hexanes, 0.21 mL)

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was added over <1 min to a stirred solution of **21** (74.0 mg, 0.20 mmol) in toluene at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 5 min, diluted at 0 °C with 3 N hydrochloric acid, stirred for 5 min and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (0.8 × 12 cm), using 1:4 EtOAc–hexanes, gave **45** (64.4 mg, 95%) as a colorless, thick oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 1678 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ (major isomer) 1.11 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 2.65–2.39 (m, 1 H), 2.49–2.92 (m, 2 H), 3.12–3.36 (m, 1 H), 3.78 (s, 2 H), 3.81 (s, 3 H), 6.86–6.89 (m, 2 H), 7.18–7.26 (m, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (major isomer) 19.2 (q), 34.9 (d), 35.3 (t), 43.6 (t), 48.9 (d), 55.3 (q), 114.2 (d), 123.4 (s), 129.1 (s), 130.1 (d), 149.3 (d), 159.1 (s), 190.5 (s); exact mass (electron ionization) m/z calcd for C₁₅H₁₇O₂S⁸¹Br (M)⁺ 342.0112, found 342.0111.

4-{[(4-Methoxyphenyl)methyl]sulfanyl}-3-methylphenol (46). DBU (57.2 mg, 0.376 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 45 (60.3 mg, 0.184 mmol) in PhMe (1 mL). Stirring was continued for 30 min, and the reaction mixture was diluted with aqueous NH4Cl and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (0.8×12 cm), using 1:4 EtOAchexanes, gave 46 (41.6 mg, 91%) as a white solid: mp 81-83 °C; FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3397, 1609 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 2.28 (s, 3 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 3.87 (s, 2 H), 4.68 (br s, 1 H), 6.58 (ddd, J = 10.5, 3.5, 0.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.67 (dd, J = 3.5, 0.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.77-6.79 (m, 2 H), 7.06–7.08 (m, 2 H), 7.19 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 20.8 (q), 39.9 (t), 55.3 (q), 113.4 (d), 113.8 (d), 117.1 (d), 125.8 (s), 130.0 (d), 130.1 (s), 135.0 (d), 142.5 (s), 155.1 (s), 158.6 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/z calcd for C₁₅H₁₅O₂S (M - H)⁻ 259.0798, found 259.0797.

2-Bromo-3-ethenyl-5-methyl-4-(methylsulfanyl)cyclohex-2en-1-one (48). Vinylmagnesium bromide solution (1.0 M in THF, 0.15 mL) was added dropwise over <1 min to a stirred solution of 17 (26.0 mg, 0.098 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL), and stirring at 0 $^\circ C$ was continued for 1 h. The ice bath was left in place, but not recharged, and stirring was continued for 12 h, during which the mixture reached room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with 2 N hydrochloric acid, stirred for 10 min, and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel $(0.5 \times 10 \text{ cm})$, using 1:5 EtOAc-hexanes, gave 48 (22.5 mg, 88%) as a colorless, thick oil: FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 1676 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR $(CDCl_3, 500 \text{ MHz}) \delta$ (major isomer) 1.23 (d, I = 6.5 Hz, 3 H), 2.15(s, 3 H), 2.47–3.35 (m, 3 H), 3.68–3.74 (m, 1 H), 5.74 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.98 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.13 (dd, J = 17.5, 11.0 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ (major isomer) 17.5 (q), 18.5 (q), 34.3 (d), 41.4 (t), 49.7 (d), 123.7 (t), 125.8 (s), 135.6 (d), 153.3 (s), 191.2 (s); exact mass (electron ionization) m/z calcd for $C_{10}H_{13}OS^{81}Br$ (M)⁺ 261.9850, found 261.9852.

3-Ethenyl-5-methyl-4-(methylsulfanyl)phenol (49). DBU (29.3 mg, 0.192 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 48 (25.1 mg, 0.096 mmol) in PhMe (0.5 mL). Stirring was continued for 4 h, and the reaction mixture was diluted with saturated aqueous NH4Cl and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated. Flash chromatography of the residue over silica gel (0.5 \times 12 cm), using 1:5 EtOAchexanes, gave 49 (14.7 mg, 85%) as a white solid: mp 98-101 °C; FTIR (CDCl₃, cast) 3375, 1598 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 2.16 (s, 3 H), 2.51 (s, 3 H), 4.73 (s, 1 H), 5.32 (dd, J = 11.2, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.63 (d, J = 11.2, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.69 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.89 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.50 (dd, J = 17.6, 10.8 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 19.3 (q), 21.7 (q), 110.6 (d), 115.7 (t), 116.9 (d), 126.2 (s), 136.3 (d), 143.7 (s), 144.7 (s), 155.4 (s); exact mass (electrospray) m/z calcd for $C_{10}H_{11}OS$ (M - H)⁻ 179.0538, found 179.0536.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.5b02187.

X-ray data for 24 (CIF) Copies of NMR spectra of 15–30 and X-ray data for 24 (PDF)

Copies of NMR spectra of 31-49 (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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